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### Tu Lucha Es Mi Lucha: BIPOC Students' Sense of Belonging in Education

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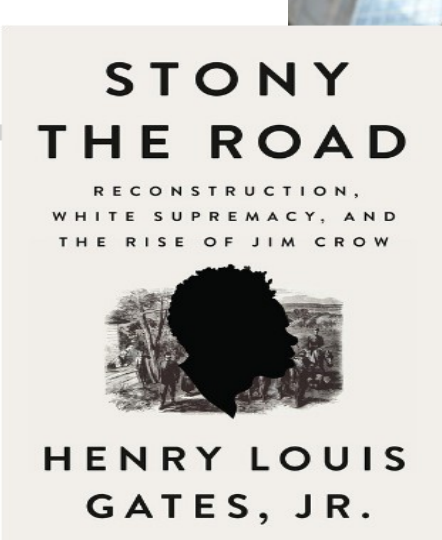
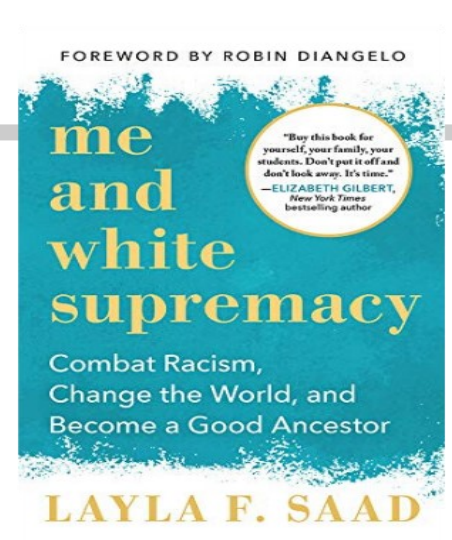
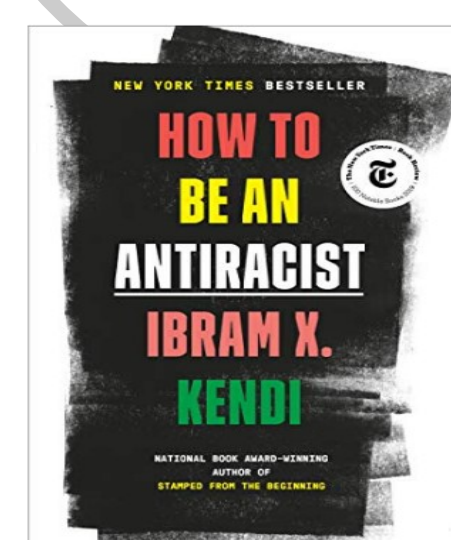
## Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy

- Embracing and Learning Identities
- Building Sociopolitical Awareness
- Developing Critical Thinking

*"It is an approach that empowers students intellectually, socially, emotionally, and politically by using cultural referents to impart knowledge, skills and attitudes." Gloria Ladson-Billings*

## Critical Race Theory

- Centering Race and Racism
- Challenging Dominant Ideology in Curriculum and Classrooms
- Valuing Experiential Knowledge
- Commitment to Social Justice and Solutions
- Understanding the impact of race and racism in education



## Semi-Structured Interviews

Xiomar	Chicana, Mexican, POC
Veronica	Mexican, Hispanic, POC
Yadean	Black, African American
Ailyn	Hispanic, Brown, POC
Itzel	Mexican, Hispanic, POC
Octabi	Spanish, Indigenous

## Acknowledgements

Dr. Rebecca Beals  
McNair Scholars Program  
My Participants

References



## LA CULTURA CURA

- How does culturally sustaining pedagogy impact the sense of belonging of BIPOC students in higher education?
- How can we establish a better sense of belonging?



## Overall Experience

- Enjoyed Making Friendships
- Connected to Cultural Centers
- Microaggressions
- Community/Advocacy
- Grit



## THEMES



"They told me I had a second language barrier. I felt embarrassed, and every time I write something I feel like it is not good."

-Ailyn

"They only teach what they want to teach. We learn about the same white men over and over again. But this one time we were learning about Santeria, and I liked it. I was excited."

-Ailyn

## REPRESENTATION

"I was mad because I did not get why we were selling only to countries with lighter skin because to me lotion is just lotion."

-Octabi

"In my old major, I could not see people that look like me, and it was competitive. In my new major, you see African Americans, Mexicans and many Asian ethnicities."

-Yadean

## TIGHT KNIT

"Dr. X made it an individual experience like they were talking to the class, but they made me feel like they were only talking to me."

-Veronica

"I had to fight for my program every year. I had a couple professors pick me back up, and the fact something like that could happen meant something to me. It meant like a family."

-Xiomar

## RECOGNITION

"He accused me of cheating because it was too perfect."

-Itzel

"Knowing your past helps your future. It is frustrating that students do not know their history. It has been so forgotten that no one remembers."

- Veronica

## Moving Forward and Discussion

What is being done now?

•Latinx/Chicanx Studies / Cultural Relevant Pedagogy/ Cultural Centers

How can we center students of color, faculty of color and cultural centers?

•Representation, Recognition, Discussion, Emotional Connectedness.

Hiring faculty of color; Changing curriculum; Funding; Engagement with communities; Tours

**"My culture is more than a diversity selling point. It is full of beauty." -Xiomar**

